

WYCOMBE manager Mike Keen was left shaking his head at Walthamstow on Saturday after his team had snatched a 2-2 draw with a goal four minutes from the end of their Berger Isthmian League Premier Division match.

With the memory of Wycombe's 5-0 thrashing of Bromley last week in mind Mr Keen said: "They play brilliantly one week and I think everything is right. Then the next week they play terribly. I wish they'd either play well or badly then I would know what to do."

The match at Green Pond Lane was not by any stretch of the imagination a classic, but Mr Keen could draw some consolation from the way his team kept battling on a pitch which made the bounce as unpredictable as a rugby ball.

Good start

But for all their efforts on a surface which did not suit Blues' style of play — or Walthamstow's — it took substitute Howard Kennedy to get the equaliser when he capitalised on a poor back-pass to score.

Yet Wycombe started so well, with a goal in the second minute from Tony Price. Terry Glynn battled well to pass the ball to Price just over the half-way line. He beat two half-hearted challenges before firing into the back of the net.

But that was the end of the game as far as Price, who starts a two match suspension on Tuesday for his sending off at Worcester in the F.A. Cup, was concerned.

Despite being given a tremendous amount of room by the Walthamstow defence he was rarely given the ball, and when he did seemed unable to 'turn on' his skill.

Pressure

But it was the same story for the rest of the team, who found themselves trailing 2-1

By MIKE ALLEN: Walthamstow 2, Wycombe 2

at the break. Avenue equalised, when from a throw-in Dave Silman received the ball, easily beat the defence, and put the ball past the outcoming Lester.

The goal followed a period of Walthamstow pressure and in the 29th minute they took the lead. Bobby Tappin broke through the defence, Paul Birdseye failed to make any contact with a last ditch tackle and Tappin slammed the ball into the roof of the net from 10 yards.

Steve Long was unlucky not to pull Wycombe level in the 36th minute when, having beaten the offside trap, he saw a shot blocked and looked to be pushed as he lined

up his second attempt from 10 yards.

Gary Lester made a fine save just before half-time when he was well placed to collect a header from point-blank range following a free kick. Then Dick Sedgwick did have the ball in the net for Walthamstow, but the linesman's flag had already gone up for off-side.

Chaos

In the second period Wycombe spent most of their time in the Walthamstow half, but it was merely that they were the better of two poor sides.

However, one hectic moment of action saw

Walthamstow have a penalty appeal turned down as Borg appeared to stop the ball on the line with his hand as he fell to the ground.

It was such chaos that five players piled in on top of each other in an attempt to get to the ball which was sitting next to Borg on the line.

As Wycombe's frustration grew two players had their names taken. The first was Steve Long, and he was followed two minutes later by Steve Hardwick who was lucky not to be sent off when he took Chris Draper completely out of the game as he broke over the half-way line.

In between the bookings Howard Kennedy was sent on to bolster the midfield in place of Bob Dell, who like everybody else, did not seem to be enjoying the match.

The move had the desired effect, with Kennedy scoring but in the last few frenzied minutes Blues failed to collect maximum points, and were probably happy with the one they did take home.

WALTHAMSTOW: A. Jarratt, J. Webberley, B. Lock, A. Hunter, D. Silman, R. Jarman, B. Tappin, B. Walder, C. Draper, D. Sedgwick, J. Harrison, Sub: P. Hopkins (not used).

WYCOMBE: G. Lester, P. Birdseye, G. Borg, B. Davies, S. Hardwick, B. Dell (sub: H. Kennedy 77 mins), S. Long, J. Jacobs, T. Glynn, T. Price, M. Holfield.

Referee: Mr B. O'Leary (Dagenham). **Half-time:** 2-1: Walthamstow — Silman 21, Tappin 29. Wycombe — Price (2), Kennedy (86).

Toll's treble

STRIKER Gary Toll scored a hat-trick as Wycombe Wanderers Reserves raced to their biggest win of the season over Southall Reserves at Loakes Park on Saturday.

Wanderers triumphed 7-0 to record their fourth successive victory in the North Section of the Suburban League. They are really shooting up the table after a slow start.

In addition to Toll, Wycombe's goals came from Andy Hunt (2), Paul West and Terry Scott, who is playing in the Reserves while in England before returning to the United States.

WYCOMBE winger Tony Price, sent off in the FA Cup tie at Worcester City on November 1, has been suspended for one week and will so miss two Berger Isthmian League matches.

His period of suspension started yesterday (Monday), so manager Mike Keen will have to find another forward for their matches at home to Staines tonight, and at home to Sutton United on Saturday.

Favourite to take over from Price, who received his marching orders after being on the field as substitute for just six minutes against Worcester, must be Gary Toll, who returned to form with a hat-trick for the reserves on Saturday.

His greater first team experience should give him the vote over recent signing Ken Wilson, who has yet to adapt to his new surroundings. He has struggled so far.

Difficulties

Mr Keen might have one or two selection difficulties for the Staines match. Mick Holfield aggravated a groin injury against Walthamstow and must be considered doubtful while Paul Birdseye has a sore knee.

Either Paul West or Jimmy Richardson is likely to come in for Holfield, while Keith Mead is standing by in case Birdseye does not recover.

There is some concern over Howard Kennedy, even though he came on as substitute and scored Saturday's winner. His recent operation

on his leg has not been a total success and he sees a specialist on Saturday to decide if the injury needs further surgery.

There could be more selection problems for Mr Keen in the near future. George Borg who has clocked up numerous bookings this season, receives his punishment on Friday, while Steve Hardwick's caution against Walthamstow means that he is now in line for disciplinary action.

Staines, who defeated Wanderers 2-1 at Wheatsheaf Lane earlier in the season, have since parted company with their talented coloured striker Jester Williams. He recently joined Kingstonian for £1,500.

Manager George Talbot, who took over from former Wanderer Rob Williams in October, has signed on three new players including midfield player Keith Seager from his old club of Walton and Hersham.

BERGER ISTHMIAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enfield	26	14	8	4	55	30	50
Sutton	23	12	7	4	47	30	43
Dagenham	27	11	9	7	52	40	42
Wycombe	24	11	7	6	43	29	40
Dulwich	25	10	6	6	43	35	39
Harrow	24	12	5	8	44	29	38
Slough	19	10	7	2	26	15	37
Bromley	24	10	7	7	42	39	37
Hayes	22	10	4	8	21	26	34
Leytonstone	21	9	5	7	39	32	32
*Barking	28	9	6	13	38	50	31
Woking	26	9	3	13	37	41	30
Boreham Wd	22	7	7	8	31	39	28
Hitchin	19	7	5	7	26	21	26
Tooting	24	7	5	12	25	34	26
Walthamstow	23	7	4	12	21	37	25
Staines	23	6	6	11	24	33	24
Croydon	21	4	11	6	22	20	23
Harlow	21	5	7	9	26	33	22
Carshalton	20	7	1	12	26	42	22
Leatherhead	26	4	10	12	18	32	22
Hendon	21	5	6	10	26	33	21